posed to carry on plant-breeding work in that farm. A manure depot was opened at Muvattupuzha, to serve the ryots of the Muvattupuzha and Kunnatnad taluks. Manurial experiments on paddy were conducted on an extensive scale and considerable progress was made in the transplantation of paddy. It is gratifying to note that some of the ryots have begun to co-operate with the department in popularising new varieties of paddy. The cultivation of the cocoanut, tapioca, sugarcane, and pepper also has received the special attention of the department. Experiments on sericulture were continued in the Silk Farm at Trivandrum, and a new mulberry plantation was opened at Kaipattur. The cultivation of ground-nut and guinea-grass is making steady progress. The ryots have begun to realise the importance of manure as a factor in intensive cultivation, and the manures sold by the department are gaining in popularity. It may be stated here that, as fresh areas for the extension of paddy cultivation are limited, the people should try their best to enhance the yield from the existing paddy lands by adopting improved methods of manuring and other scientific methods of cultivation. The Department of Agriculture is always ready to render help in this direction. The opposition of the ryots to the use of the light iron ploughs is fast disappearing and large numbers of that plough are now being purchased by them. New ideas in regard to agriculture are being disseminated by the department among the ryots, by answers to queries on agricultural subjects, distribution of agricultural leaflets, and by popular lectures and the publication of a vernacular quarterly journal.

26. **Fishery.**—Two Fishery Officers, who had been deputed to undergo a course of training under Sir Frederick Nicholson, returned after training. One of them was appointed as Inspector of Fisheries and the other as Inspector of Fish Industries. The development of fisheries on scientific lines promises to be of benefit both to the State and the people. Orders have been passed on the departmental report submitted on the subject. The experimental fish-curing yard opened at Muttam was continued for a further period of one year. The prejudice against the dry method of curing is reported to be wearing off and there is promise of operations on an extended scale next year. The question of transferring this fish-curing yard from the control of the Excise Department to that of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries is under contemplation.

27. **Co-operative Societies.**—Mr. C. Govinda Pillai, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who had been deputed to undergo a course of training in Madras, returned after training and resumed charge of his duties towards the close of 1090. An office staff was sanctioned for the Registrar and an Inspector of Co-operative Societies appointed to assist him in his work. The Registrar has been touring through the different taluks of the State for the purpose of popularising the co-operative movement. Eight societies have been registered up to the close of Makaram 1091. Of these, one, "The Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank," is doing banking business, and another, "The Trivandrum Co-operative Distributive Society", is a distributive society. The other six, of which two are at Karunagapalli, one at Mavelikara, and the remaining three at Kartikapalli, are credit societies and have been started purely on the co-operative principle. The bye-laws of these societies have been published in the Gazette. I may state here that the success of this beneficial movement depends almost entirely upon the people themselves and all that the department can do is to guide and assist them.

28. **Industries.**—The development of the industries of the State is also engaging the attention of the Government, and as promised by me in my reply to one of the respresentations last year, steps are being taken to secure the services of a competent expert, to undertake an industrial survey of the State and to formulate a definite scheme of action for the Government.

29. **Trade.**—The total value of the external trade was Bh. Rs. 7,11,57,523, of which 59·8 per cent or Bh. Rs. 4,18,20,726 represented the exports. The *per capita* value of the exports fell from Bh. Rs. 12·3 to Bh. Rs. 12·2, while that of the imports rose from Bh. Rs. 8·2 to Bh. Rs. 8·5. The trade in the produce of the cocoanut tree showed a decrease of Rs. 39,78,088, as compared with 1089.

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